

## §§ 1738.309—1738.349

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### §§ 1738.309—1738.349 [Reserved]

#### § 1738.350 OMB control number.

The information collection requirements in this part are approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and assigned OMB control number 0572–0130.

### PART 1739—BROADBAND GRANT PROGRAM

#### Subpart A—Community Connect Grant Program

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#### Subpart B [Reserved]

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#### Subpart A—Community Connect Grant Program

##### § 1739.1 Purpose.

(a) The provision of broadband transmission service is vital to the economic development, education, health, and safety of rural Americans. The purpose of the Community Connect Grant Program is to provide financial assistance in the form of grants to eligible applicants that will provide, on a “community-oriented connectivity” basis, broadband transmission service that fosters economic growth and delivers enhanced educational, health care, and public safety services. The Agency will give priority to rural areas that it believes have the greatest need

for broadband transmission services, based on the criteria contained herein.

(b) Grant authority will be used for the deployment of broadband transmission service to extremely rural, lower-income communities on a “community-oriented connectivity” basis. The “community-oriented connectivity” concept will stimulate practical, everyday uses and applications of broadband by cultivating the deployment of new broadband transmission services that improve economic development and provide enhanced educational and health care opportunities in rural areas. Such an approach will also give rural communities the opportunity to benefit from the advanced technologies that are necessary to achieve these goals.

##### § 1739.2 Funding availability and application dates and submission.

(a) The Agency will publish, annually in the FEDERAL REGISTER, a Notice of Funds Availability (hereinafter “NOFA”) that will set forth the total amount of funding available; the maximum and minimum funding for each grant; the application submission dates; and the appropriate addresses and agency contact information. The NOFA will also outline and explain the procedures for submission of applications, including electronic submissions. The Agency may publish more than one NOFA should additional funding become available.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this section, the Agency may, in response to a surplus of qualified eligible applications which could not be funded from the previous fiscal year, decline to publish a NOFA for the following fiscal year and fund said applications without further public notice.

##### § 1739.3 Definitions.

As used in this subpart:

*Agency* shall mean the Rural Utilities Service, which administers the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Utilities Programs.

*Bandwidth* means the capacity of the radio frequency band or physical facility needed to carry the Broadband Transmission Service.